

SYNOPSIS

AMG GERMANY ... POSTAL CARDS the 1945 “M” Design

OBJECTIVE

Explore all aspects of the 1945 AMG Germany, “M” Design, Postal Cards. Includes examples of the basic card, paper types, paper thickness, paper colors, printing flaws and errors as well as major variants and characteristics.

Further, show the broad range of usage for each major type. Usage is not limited to the card’s value as issued. It is expanded to all possible uses including various up-rating methods and combinations required by the destination and Postal Rate Period in which they were used. Cards were also used beyond the demonetization dates with the appropriate postage having been added. Uses include “in-town”, “out-of-town” and foreign deliveries.

INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- The postal service was reinstated in Germany starting in July of 1945.
- The initial “allowed method” of correspondence was a single sheet open letter or post/postal card.
- The limited open format was done to expedite censorship review of all mails.
- Temporary cards were issued in mid 1945 and then later replaced by new definitive with designed indicia.
- Definitive Postal Cards using an “M” design indicia were released in the American & British Zones in late 1945.
- Each Zone issued cards with 5 and 6 pfennig values for “in-city” and “inter-city” rates respectively.
- The indicia designs are almost identical to the AMG Germany, London and Washington Print, stamps.
- These values satisfied the 1st Postal Period Rates and were carry over rates from the 3rd Reich period.
- Foreign delivery rates were not required as formal “out of country” service was not restarted until April 1946.
- POW and other mails from Germany to other country locations were likely handled through the military mails.
- As postal rates changed these cards saw continued use through various methods of up-rating.
- Up-rating methods included adding stamps and auxiliary stamped values to make the amount required for delivery.
- Quality of printing was highly variable due to materials and equipment shortages of the times.
- Shortages reflect a wide range of variation in paper colors, printing flaws, paper types and thicknesses.
- Cards were demonetized in late 1946. Later use of these cards is found with appropriate full postage added.

EXHIBIT ORGANIZATION

The exhibit is organized as follows:

1. Introduction

2. American Zone (Mi P 902 - P 903)

- Introduction
- 5 Pfennig (green)
- 6 Pfennig (violet)
 - Introduction
 - Type I
 - Type II
 - Type III
 - Type IV

3. British Zone (Mi P 904 - P 906)

- Introduction
- 5 Pfennig (green)
- 6 Pfennig (yellow)
- 5 Pfennig Aufbrauchsausgabe

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF EACH TYPE

- An introduction is provided with print quantities, dates of introduction and demonetization.
- For each Value and Type, examples of paper color variation, paper thickness, paper types and indicia color variations are presented.
- Known or discovered, examples of errors and printing flaws are shown.
- Proofs or essays are not known and therefore not shown.
- For each Type, postal usages are shown in the order of Postal Period and Delivery Intent.
- Deliveries such as POW mail and outside of normal practices are shown.
- Examples of the different methods of up-rating are shown including adhesives, hand stamps, machine stamps and glued-on cut squares.
- Included are examples of auxiliary marking requirements such as censorship, forwarding, postage due and return to sender.
- Postal Rate Periods included are the 1st and 2nd plus a few examples of uses beyond demonetization.

Note: Items in the exhibit of particular importance or that are difficult to locate have been framed in blue.

SIGNIFICANCE of MATERIAL

Finding mint examples of each printing and value is quite easy even though they are now over sixty years old. The challenge for this field is assembling examples of paper types for each, the major printing errors and a cross section of the minor printing flaws. An even greater challenge is finding used examples for each Type from the first two Postal Rate Periods, particularly those used for “in town” mails in the 1st period i.e. used before 28 February 1946. Later mails allowed foreign deliveries and these cards, by up-rating, could also be used for this purpose. Up-rating of the 5 & 6 pfennig was accomplished through many methods ...addition of stamps, hand stamp and machine applied overprints with hand written values filled in and cut squares from other cards. Local “Gebühr Beahlt” (fee paid) up-rated items shown are only representative of the practice. Additional auxiliary markings such as Censorship Marks, Postage Due markings and “return or forwarding” marks are shown.

When reviewing this exhibit you will find many examples of these “hard to locate” items. Most difficult are:

- The “print date and card format designation” printing varieties of the 6 pfennig Munich Type Prints
- Foreign deliveries and POW mails for all Types. Pre 1 April 1946 examples are of most interest.
- Representative examples of “Gebühr Beahlt” hand & machine stamps as well as cut square up-ratings.
- Paper varieties to include paper thickness, color and texture varieties for each Type
- The “missing bracket” variety from the 6 pfennig Type II and the ‘partial oval frame’ missing from the 6 pfennig Type I.
- Cards “forwarded” and “returned to sender” examples as well as representative postage due practices.
- A representation of the printing flaws found on the 5 pfennig Munich Print
- Card written in English providing historical insight to the plight of the times
- A representation of “Drucksache” (printed material) cards for each Type

POW mails sent to camps outside of Germany after the War are included. These carry various postal rates and were processed before foreign delivery services were resumed. They show the 15 pfennig pre-war rates or 6 pfennig “out of town” rates. It is believed that they traveled in the Military Mail System which was in place and provided service between military installations.

Items shown have been assembled over a period of twenty five years and were acquired from around the world including USA, countries in Europe, the Middle East, Malaysia, South America and Japan. Unique used examples are extremely difficult to find as most were discarded by the nature of their use. This has become more true in recent years as interest in the area grew.

ORIGINAL WORK

First, much literature has been reviewed to determine the existence of specialized types, scope and varieties that have been recorded. Basic sources are below under references. This research formed the structure and content of this exhibit and provides the outline for the content found therein.

Second, there is a wide variety of paper/card stock used for these issues. The exhibit has a page for each Type reporting thicknesses varieties. This is a result of measuring many, many samples of each value and type with an Ames Gage to determine thickness. Cards were allowed to normalize in a common air conditioned environment prior to measurement. This reduced variation due to moisture, assuring uniform results. Comments regarding the paper types are included on these pages.

AWARDS RECEIVED

ROPEX 2009 - Vermeil Medal & Marcus White Award, **FLOREX 2010** - Vermeil Medal & APS Award for Research, **GARFIELD-PERRY 2011** – Gold Medal & APS Award of Excellence for 1940-1980 Material, **SARASOTA NATIONAL 2012** - Gold Medal & APS Award of Excellence for 1940-1980 Material. Since Sarasota, graphical clarification of major print errors was made, 5pfennig Munich Print usages were added, ‘date/form’ combination of 6pfennig Munich Print added and refinement of the 6pfennig British section, including usages, have been made. Judges comments and suggestions continue to make this exhibit a challenging, unique study and therefore a work in progress.

REFERENCES

The following are key references used in assembling the background and material for this exhibit.

- Borek ... “Ganzsachen_Special-Katalog, Deutschland ab 1933”, Essen, Germany, August 1980
- Bush ... Various catalog sheets, album sheets and price lists. J.V.Bush, Bonita, CA (various years)
- Higgins & Gage ... Section 7, Germany, 1976 amended 1983, Huntington Beach, CA (out of print)
- Michel ... “Ganzsachen-Katalog-Deutschland”, 1997, 2002, 2005 Editions , Munich, Germany (German Postal Stationery)
- Michel ... “Postgebühren-Handbuch Deutschland”, Munich Germany 2001 (Postal Rates)
- Stich ... “Post War Years of Germany, 1945 – 1948”, Dr. H.F. Stich, Vancouver, BC (Postal practices, censor marks)
- Wagner ... The Allied Military Government Postal Service, R. Wagner, Emporia State, 1977 (BA History Thesis)
- Wilcke ... “The AMG Story”, Dr. Harry W. Wilcke, U.S. Possessions Philatelic Society, 1994 (out of print)
- Bockholdt, Hettler, Mücke, etal ... “Die AM-Post-Marken in Deutschland 1945 / 1946” , Sept 2000
- Dr. Herbert Sax ... “Die Post 1945-1946 in der amerikanischen und britischen Zone” (Wurzburg 2010)
- Other ... Miscellaneous specialized dealer and auction catalogs, trade publications, GPS literature